

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1 (Currently Amended): An image forming apparatus, comprising:

a plurality of latent image bearing members;

a plurality of visible image forming units each including development means for developing latent images on said corresponding latent image bearing member to form visible images thereon;

a light scanning means for forming said latent images on said latent image bearing members, said scanning means including a deflecting means for deflecting image information light to form said latent images on surfaces of said latent image bearing members;

an endless intermediate transfer member;

means for rotating said endless intermediate transfer member;

a transfer means for transferring said visible images formed by said visible image forming units in a manner to be superposed on said endless intermediate transfer member;

a mark detection means for detecting a base mark affixed onto a predetermined location on a surface of said endless intermediate transfer member and providing a mark detecting detection signal corresponding thereto;

a standard angle detection means for detecting the light deflected by said deflecting means arriving at a predetermined angle of deflection; and

a deflection angle phase correction means included in said light scanning means for correcting a phase of change in angle of deflection caused by said deflecting means based on at least the mark detection signal from said mark detection means and a standard angle detection signal from said standard angle detection means,

wherein said light scanning means is configured to carry out light scanning onto said plurality of latent image bearing members such that at least one pair of neighboring visible

image forming units of said plurality of visible image forming units are both subjected to the  
light scanning by a same deflecting means, [[and]]

wherein said endless intermediate transfer member is adapted to be rotated for a  
plurality of rounds by said means for rotating such that [[a]] the surface thereof of the endless  
intermediate transfer member is superposed thereon with plural visible images each provided  
by a same of said visible image forming units during each round for one of rounds of rotation  
of the endless intermediate transfer member;

wherein said plurality of visible image forming units each further includes first and  
second visible image forming units to constitute said pair of neighboring visible image  
forming units, such that, after forming a double-color image by sequentially transferring to  
superpose said plural visible images each formed by said first and second visible image  
forming units onto the surface of said endless intermediate transfer member during a first  
round of rotation of said endless intermediate transfer member, a quadruple-color image is  
formed by sequentially transferring to superpose plural visible images each formed by said  
first and second visible image forming units onto said double-color image during a second  
round of rotation of said endless intermediate transfer member;

wherein said light scanning means is further configured, after storing a time lag dt1 as  
a difference between a time Ta when the mark detection signal is detected and a time Tb  
when said standard angle detection signal is detected during the first round of rotation of said  
endless intermediate transfer member, to measure a time lag dt2 as a difference between a  
time Tc when said mark detection signal is detected and a time Td when said standard angle  
detection signal is detected during a second rotation of said endless intermediate transfer  
member, and to correct said phase based on said time lag dt2 and said time lag dt1 previously  
stored; and

wherein said light scanning means is further configured to store in advance a

predetermined base correction time; initiate optical image writing for the first round of rotation of said endless intermediate transfer member onto said latent image bearing member included in said first visible image forming unit based on said standard angle detection signal detected after a time  $T_e$  determined as a time elapsed by a base correction time  $t_1$  from said time  $T_a$ ; correct said phase, during a period between the time  $T_c$  and a time including the time  $T_c$  and said base correction time  $t_1$ , based on said time lag  $dt_2$  and said time lag  $dt_1$ ; and initiate optical image writing for the second round of rotation of said endless intermediate transfer member onto said latent image bearing member included in said first visible image forming unit.

2-3 (Cancelled).

4 (Currently Amended): The image forming apparatus according to claim [[3]] 1, wherein said light scanning means is further configured to store in advance a predetermined standard time difference  $t_s$ ; to compute a time difference  $\Delta t$  as a difference between said time lag  $dt_2$  and said time lag  $dt_1$ ; and, in a case where said standard time difference  $t_s \geq$  said time difference  $\Delta t$ , it is decided not to correct said phase prior to said optical image writing for [[a]] the first round of rotation of said endless intermediate transfer member onto said latent image bearing member included in said first visible image forming unit.

5 (Currently Amended): The image forming apparatus according to claim 4, wherein, in said case where it is decided not to correct said phase, said light scanning means is further configured to initiate optical image writing for [[a]] the second round of rotation of said endless intermediate transfer member onto said latent image bearing member included in said first visible image forming unit based on a time when said standard angle detection signal is

detected firstly after a time has elapsed by a predetermined time from the time  $T_c$ , and determine said predetermined time ~~in comparison with said base correction time  $t_1$~~  based in at least a time  $T_f$  when optical image writing is initiated for ~~[[a]]~~ the first round of rotation of said endless intermediate transfer member onto said latent image bearing member included in said first visible image forming unit, said time  $T_e$ , said base correction time  $t_1$ , said time lag  $dt_1$ , and said time lag  $dt_2$ .

6 (Currently Amended): The image forming apparatus according to claim 5, wherein, in said case where it is decided not to correct said phase, said light scanning means is further configured to store in advance a time difference  $t_x$  between said time  $T_e$  and said time  $T_f$ , and determine said predetermined time based on at least magnitude relation of said time lag  $dt_1$  and said time lag  $dt_2$ , and said time difference  $t_x$ .

7 (Currently Amended): The image forming apparatus according to claim 6, further comprising:

a plurality of base marks equally spaced with a predetermined pitch there between each affixed onto said endless intermediate transfer member in a direction of rotation,

wherein, in a case where optical image writing for ~~[[a]]~~ the first round of rotation of said endless intermediate transfer member onto said latent image bearing member included in said first visible image forming unit is completed at a time  $T_g$  when a predetermined number of ~~[[said]]~~ mark detection signals are detected after said time  $T_a$ , said light scanning means is further configured to correct said phase, during a period between said time  $T_g$  and a time after said time  $T_g$  that has elapsed by said base correction time  $t_1$ , based on a time lag  $dt_3$  between said time  $T_g$  and a time when said standard angle detection signal is detected firstly after said time  $T_g$ , and said time lag  $dt_1$ ; and initiate optical image writing for said first round

of rotation of said endless intermediate transfer member onto said latent image bearing member included in said second visible image forming unit.

8 (Currently Amended): The image forming apparatus according to claim 7, wherein, in a case where optical image writing for [[a]] the second round of rotation of said endless intermediate transfer member onto said latent image bearing member included in said first visible image forming unit is already completed at a time  $T_h$  when anyone of said mark detection signals is detected after said time  $T_c$ , said light scanning means is further configured to correct said phase, during a period between said time  $T_h$  and a time after said time  $T_h$  that has elapsed by said base correction time  $t_1$ , based on a time lag  $dt_4$  between said time  $T_h$  and a time when said standard angle detection signal is detected firstly after said time  $T_h$ , and said time lag  $dt_2$ ; and initiate optical image writing for said second round of rotation of said endless intermediate transfer member onto said latent image bearing member included in said second visible image forming unit.

9 (Currently Amended): The image forming apparatus according to claim 6, further comprising:

a first mark detection means as said mark detection means; and

a second mark detection means for detecting a second base mark situated between said first and said second visible image forming units,

wherein, in a case where optical image writing for [[a]] the first round of rotation of said endless intermediate transfer member onto said latent image bearing member included in said first visible image forming unit is already completed at a time  $T_i$  when a second mark detection signal is produced by said second mark detection means after said time  $T_a$  when the mark detection signal is produced by said first mark detection means as a previous mark

detecting signal, said light scanning means is further configured to correct said phase, during a period between said time  $T_i$  and a time after said time  $T_i$  that has elapsed by said base correction time  $t_1$ , based on a time lag  $dt_5$  between said time  $T_i$  and a time when said standard angle detection signal is produced firstly after said time  $T_i$ , and said time lag  $dt_1$ ; and initiate optical image writing for said first round of rotation of said endless intermediate transfer member onto said latent image bearing member included in said second visible image forming unit.

10 (Currently Amended): The image forming apparatus according to claim 9, wherein, in a case where optical image writing for ~~[[a]]~~ the second round of rotation of said endless intermediate transfer member onto said latent image bearing member included in said first visible image forming unit is already completed at a time  $T_j$  when the second mark detection signal is produced by said second mark detection means after said time  $T_c$  when the mark detection signal is produced by said first mark detection means as a previous mark detecting signal, said light scanning means is further configured to correct said phase, during a period between said time  $T_j$  and a time after said time  $T_j$  has elapsed by said base correction time  $t_1$ , based on a time lag  $dt_6$  between said time  $T_j$  and a time when said standard angle detection signal is detected firstly after said time  $T_j$ , and said time lag  $dt_2$ ; and initiate optical image writing for said second round of rotation of said endless intermediate transfer member onto said latent image bearing member included in said second visible image forming unit.

11 (Currently Amended): The image forming apparatus according to claim 6, wherein, in a case where ~~[[said]]~~ image information is of double-color images, said double-color images being able to be formed by superposing first color images formed by said first

visible image forming unit and second color images formed by said second visible image forming unit, said light scanning means is further configured to initiate optical image writing onto said latent image bearing member included in said first visible image forming unit based on a time when said standard angle detection signal is detected firstly after said time  $T_a$  without waiting for an arrival of said time  $T_e$ .

12 (Currently Amended): The image forming apparatus according to claim 11, ~~further comprising: a plurality of development means included in~~ wherein each of said first and second visible image forming units includes a plurality of the development means; and a development effecting means for selectively enabling one of said first and second visible image forming units, wherein, in a case where said double-color images can be formed of a first color being able to be developed by anyone of said plurality of development means included in said first visible image forming unit and of a second color being able to be developed by anyone of said plurality of development means included in said second visible image forming unit, said first and second visible image forming units are each configured to enable said first color and said second color, respectively, by selectively enabling one of said plurality of development means by means of said development effecting means.

13 (Currently Amended): The image forming apparatus according to claim 6, wherein, in said case where it is decided not to correct said phase, said light scanning means is further configured to store a sum of said time difference  $t_x$  and said base correction time  $t_1$  as an added correction time  $t_1'$ , and determine said predetermined time based on at least magnitude relation of said time lag  $dt_1$  and said time lag  $dt_2$ , and said added correction time  $t_1'$ .

14 (Currently Amended): The image forming apparatus according to claim 13,  
further comprising:

a plurality of base marks equally spaced with a predetermined pitch there between  
each affixed onto said endless intermediate transfer member in a direction of rotation,

wherein, in a case where optical image writing for [[a]] the first round of rotation of  
said endless intermediate transfer member onto said latent image bearing member included in  
said first visible image forming unit is completed at a time  $T_g$  when a predetermined number  
of [[said]] mark detection signals are detected after said time  $T_a$ , said light scanning means is  
further configured to correct said phase, during a period between said time  $T_g$  and a time  
after said time  $T_g$  that has elapsed by said base correction time  $t_1$ , based on a time lag  $dt_3$   
between said time  $T_g$  and a time when said standard angle detection signal is detected firstly  
after said time  $T_g$ , and said time lag  $dt_1$ ; and initiate optical image writing for said first round  
of rotation of said endless intermediate transfer member onto said latent image bearing  
member included in said second visible image forming unit.

15 (Currently Amended): The image forming apparatus according to claim 14,  
wherein, in a case where optical image writing for [[a]] the second round of rotation of said  
endless intermediate transfer member onto said latent image bearing member included in said  
first visible image forming unit is already completed at a time  $T_h$  when anyone of said mark  
detection signals is detected after said time  $T_c$ , said light scanning means is further  
configured to correct said phase, during a period between said time  $T_h$  and a time after said  
time  $T_h$  that has elapsed by said base correction time  $t_1$ , based on a time lag  $dt_4$  between said  
time  $T_h$  and a time when said standard angle detection signal is detected firstly after said time  
 $T_h$ , and said time lag  $dt_2$ ; and

initiate optical image writing for said second round of rotation of said endless



intermediate transfer member onto said latent image bearing member included in said second visible image forming unit.

16 (Currently Amended): The image forming apparatus according to claim 13, further comprising:

a first mark detection means as said mark detection means; and

a second mark detection means for detecting a second base mark situated between said first and said second visible image forming units,

wherein, in a case where optical image writing for ~~[[a]]~~ the first round of rotation of said endless intermediate transfer member onto said latent image bearing member included in said first visible image forming unit is already completed at a time  $T_i$  when a second mark detection signal is produced by said second mark detection means after said time  $T_a$  when the mark detection signal is produced by said first mark detection means as a previous mark detecting signal, said light scanning means is further configured to correct said phase, during a period between said time  $T_i$  and a time after said time  $T_i$  that has elapsed by said base correction time  $t_1$ , based on a time lag  $dt_5$  between said time  $T_i$  and a time when said standard angle detection signal is detected firstly after said time  $T_i$ , and said time lag  $dt_1$ ; and initiate optical image writing for said first round of rotation of said endless intermediate transfer member onto said latent image bearing member included in said second visible image forming unit.

17 (Currently Amended): The image forming apparatus according to claim 16, wherein, in a case where optical image writing for ~~[[a]]~~ the second round of rotation of said endless intermediate transfer member onto said latent image bearing member included in said first visible image forming unit is already completed at a time  $T_j$  when the second mark

detection signal is produced by said second mark detection means after said time  $T_c$  when the mark detection signal is detected by said first mark detection means as a previous mark detecting signal, said light scanning means is further configured to correct said phase, during a period between said time  $T_j$  and a time after said time  $T_j$  elapsed by said base correction time  $t_1$ , based on a time lag  $dt_6$  between said time  $T_j$  and a time when said standard angle detection signal is detected firstly after said time  $T_j$ , and said time lag  $dt_2$ ; and initiate optical image writing for said second round of rotation of said endless intermediate transfer member onto said latent image bearing member included in said second visible image forming unit.

18 (Currently Amended): The image forming apparatus according to claim 13, wherein, in a case where ~~[[said]]~~ image information is of double-color images, said double-color images being able to be formed by superposing first color images formed by said first visible image forming unit and second color images formed by said second visible image forming unit, said light scanning means is further configured to initiate optical image writing onto said latent image bearing member included in said first visible image forming unit based on a time when said standard angle detection signal is detected firstly after said time  $T_a$  without waiting for an arrival of said time  $T_e$ .

19 (Currently Amended): The image forming apparatus according to claim 18, ~~further comprising: a plurality of development means included in wherein~~ each of said first and second visible image forming units includes a plurality of development means; and a development effecting means for selectively enabling one of said first and second visible image forming units, wherein, in a case where said double-color images can be formed of a first color being able to be developed by anyone of said plurality of development means included in said first visible image forming unit and of a second color being able to be

developed by anyone of said plurality of development means included in said second visible image forming unit, said first and second visible image forming units are each configured to enable said first color and said second color, respectively, by selectively enabling one of said plurality of development means by means of said development effecting means.

20 (Currently Amended): An image forming apparatus, comprising:

- means for bearing latent images;
- means for forming visible images by developing said latent images;
- means for implementing light scanning to form said latent images by deflecting light, including image information, to irradiate surfaces of said means for bearing latent images;
- means for transferring visible images formed by said means for forming visible images including an intermediate transfer means rotated by a rotation means;
- first means for detecting a base mark affixed onto a predetermined location on a surface of said intermediate transfer means;
- second means for detecting light deflected by said means for implementing light scanning at a predetermined angle of deflection; and
- means for correcting a phase of change in angle of deflection by said means for implementing light scanning based on at least a mark detection signal from said first means for detecting a base mark, and a standard angle detection signal from said second means for detecting light,

wherein said means for implementing light scanning carries out light scanning such that at least one pair of neighboring visible image forming means of said means for forming visible images are subjected to light scanning both by a same of said means for implementing light scanning, [[and]]

wherein said intermediate transfer means is adapted to be rotated for a plurality of

rounds such that [[a]] the surface thereof is superposed thereon with plural visible images each provided by a same of said means for forming visible images during each round;

wherein said means for forming visible images further includes first and second image forming means to constitute said pair of neighboring visible image forming means, such that, after forming a double-color image by sequentially transferring to superpose said plural visible images each formed by said first and second visible image forming means onto the surface of said intermediate transfer means during a first round of rotation of said intermediate transfer means, a quadruple-color image is formed by sequentially transferring to superpose plural visible images each formed by said first and second visible image forming means onto said double-color image during a second round of rotation of said intermediate transfer means;

wherein said means for implementing light scanning is further configured, after storing a time lag  $dt1$  as a difference between a time  $Ta$  when the mark detection signal is detected and a time  $Tb$  when said standard angle detection signal is detected during the first round of rotation of said intermediate transfer means, to measure a time lag  $dt2$  as a difference between a time  $Tc$  when said mark detection signal is detected and a time  $Td$  when said standard angle detection signal is detected during the second rotation of said intermediate transfer means, and to correct said phase based on said time lag  $dt2$  and said time lag  $dt1$  previously stored; and

wherein said means for implementing light scanning is further configured to store in advance a predetermined base correction time; initiate optical image writing for the first round of rotation of said intermediate transfer means onto said latent image bearing means included in said first visible image forming means based on said standard angle detection signal detected after a time  $Te$  determined as a time elapsed by a base correction time  $t1$  from said time  $Ta$ ; correct said phase, during a period between the time  $Tc$  and a time including the

time  $T_c$  and said base correction time  $t_1$ , based on said time lag  $dt_2$  and said time lag  $dt_1$ ; and initiate optical image writing for the second round of rotation of said intermediate transfer means onto said means for bearing latent images included in said first visible image forming means.

21-22 (Cancelled).

23 (Currently Amended): The image forming apparatus according to claim [[22]] 20, wherein said means for implementing light scanning is further configured to store in advance a predetermined standard time difference  $t_s$ ; to compute a time difference  $\Delta t$  as a difference between said time lag  $dt_2$  and said time lag  $dt_1$ ; and, in a case where said standard time difference  $t_s \geq$  said time difference  $\Delta t$ , it is decided not to correct said phase prior to said optical image writing for [[a]] the first round of rotation of said intermediate transfer means onto said means for bearing latent images included in said first visible image forming means.

24 (Currently Amended): The image forming apparatus according to claim 23, wherein, in said case where it is decided not to correct said phase, said means for implementing light scanning is further configured to initiate optical image writing for [[a]] the second round of rotation of said intermediate transfer means onto said means for bearing latent images included in said first visible image forming means based on a time when said standard angle detection signal is detected firstly after a time has elapsed by a predetermined time from the time  $T_c$ , and determine said predetermined time ~~in comparison with said base correction time  $t_1$~~  based in at least a time  $T_f$  when optical image writing is initiated for [[a]] the first round of rotation of said intermediate transfer means onto said means for bearing latent images included in said first visible image forming means, said time  $T_e$ , said base

correction time  $t_1$ , said time lag  $dt_1$ , and said time lag  $dt_2$ .

25 (Currently Amended): The image forming apparatus according to claim 24, wherein, in said case where it is decided not to correct said phase, said means for implementing light scanning is further configured to store in advance a time difference  $tx$  between said time  $T_e$  and said time  $T_f$ , and determine said predetermined time based on at least magnitude relation of said time lag  $dt_1$  and said time lag  $dt_2$ , and said time difference  $tx$ .

26 (Currently Amended): The image forming apparatus according to claim 25, further comprising:

a plurality of base marks equally spaced with a predetermined pitch there between each affixed onto the intermediate transfer means in a direction of rotation,

wherein, in a case where optical image writing for ~~[[a]]~~ the first round of rotation of said intermediate transfer means onto said means for bearing latent images included in said first visible image forming means is completed at a time  $T_g$  when a predetermined number of ~~[[said]]~~ mark detection signals are detected after said time  $T_a$ , said means for implementing light scanning is further configured to correct said phase, during a period between said time  $T_g$  and a time after said time  $T_g$  that has elapsed by said base correction time  $t_1$ , based on a time lag  $dt_3$  between said time  $T_g$  and a time when said standard angle detection signal is detected firstly after said time  $T_g$ , and said time lag  $dt_1$ ; and initiate optical image writing for said first round of rotation of said intermediate transfer means onto said means for bearing latent images included in said second visible image forming means.

27 (Currently Amended): The image forming apparatus according to claim 26, wherein, in a case where optical image writing for ~~[[a]]~~ the second round of rotation of said

intermediate transfer means onto said means for bearing latent images included in said first visible image forming means is already completed at a time  $T_h$  when anyone said mark detection signals is detected after said time  $T_c$ , said means for implementing light scanning is further configured to correct said phase, during a period between said time  $T_h$  and a time after said time  $T_h$  that has elapsed by said base correction time  $t_1$ , based on a time lag  $dt_4$  between said time  $T_h$  and a time when said standard angle detection signal is detected firstly after said time  $T_h$ , and said time lag  $dt_2$ ; and initiate optical image writing for said second round of rotation of said intermediate transfer means onto said means for bearing latent images included in said second visible image forming means.

28 (Currently Amended): The image forming apparatus according to claim 25, further comprising:

first mark detection means as said first means for detecting a base mark; and  
second mark detection means for detecting a second base mark situated between said first said second visible image forming means,

wherein, in a case where optical image writing for ~~[[a]]~~ the first round of rotation of said intermediate transfer means onto said means for bearing latent images included in said first visible image forming means is already completed at a time  $T_i$  when a second mark detection signal is produced by said second mark detection means after said time  $T_a$  when the mark detection signal is produced by said first mark detection means as a previous mark detecting signal, said means for implementing light scanning is further configured to correct said phase, during a period between said time  $T_i$  and a time after said time  $T_i$  elapsed by said base correction time  $t_1$ , based on a time lag  $dt_5$  between said time  $T_i$  that has and a time when said standard angle detection signal is detected firstly after said time  $T_i$ , and said time lag  $dt_1$ ; and initiate optical image writing for said first round of rotation of said intermediate

transfer means onto said means for bearing latent images included in said second visible image forming means.

29 (Currently Amended): The image forming apparatus according to claim 28, wherein, in a case where optical image writing for ~~[[a]]~~ the second round of rotation of said intermediate transfer means onto said means for bearing latent images included in said first visible image forming means is already completed at a time  $T_j$  when the second mark detection signal is produced by said second mark detection means after said time  $T_c$  when the mark detection signal is produced by said first mark detection means as a previous mark detection signal, said means for implementing light scanning is further configured to correct said phase, during a period between said time  $T_j$  and a time after said time  $T_j$  has elapsed by said base correction time  $t_1$ , based on a time lag  $dt_6$  between said time  $T_j$  and a time when said standard angle detection signal is detected firstly after said time  $T_j$ , and said time lag  $dt_2$ ; and initiate optical image writing for said second round of rotation of said intermediate transfer means onto said means for bearing latent images included in said second visible image forming means.

30 (Currently Amended): The image forming apparatus according to claim 25, wherein, in a case where said image information is of double-color images, said double-color images being able to be formed by superposing first color images formed by said first visible image forming means and second color images formed by said second visible image forming means, said means for implementing light scanning is further configured to initiate optical image writing onto said means for bearing latent images included in said first visible image forming means based on a time when said standard angle detection signal is detected firstly after said time  $T_a$  without waiting for an arrival of said time  $T_e$ .



31 (Original): The image forming apparatus according to claim 30, further comprising:

a plurality of development means included in each of said first and second visible image forming means; and

a development effecting means for selectively enabling one of said first and second visible image forming means,

wherein, in a case where said double-color images can be formed of a first color being able to be developed by anyone of said plurality of development means included in said first visible image forming means unit and of a second color being able to be developed by anyone of said plurality of development means included in said second visible image forming means, said first and second visible image forming means are each configured to enable said first color and said second color, respectively, by selectively enabling one of said plurality of development means by means of said development effecting means.

32 (Currently Amended): The image forming apparatus according to claim 25, wherein, in said case where it is decided not to correct said phase, said means for implementing light scanning light scanning means is further configured to store a sum of said time difference  $t_x$  and said base correction time  $t_1$  as an added correction time  $t_1'$ , and determine said predetermined time based on at least magnitude relation of said time lag  $dt_1$  and said time lag  $dt_2$ , and said added correction time  $t_1'$ .

33 (Currently Amended): The image forming apparatus according to claim 32, further comprising:

a plurality of base marks equally spaced with a predetermined pitch there between each affixed onto said intermediate transfer means in a direction of endless rotation,

wherein, in a case where optical image writing for ~~[[a]]~~ the first round of rotation of said intermediate transfer means onto said means for bearing latent images included in said first visible image forming means is completed at a time  $T_g$  when a predetermined number of ~~[[said]]~~ mark detection signals are detected after said time  $T_a$ , said means for implementing light scanning is further configured to correct said phase, during a period between said time  $T_g$  and a time after said time  $T_g$  that has elapsed by said base correction time  $t_1$ , based on a time lag  $dt_3$  between said time  $T_g$  and a time when said standard angle detection signal is detected firstly after said time  $T_g$ , and said time lag  $dt_1$ ; and initiate optical image writing for said first round of rotation of said intermediate transfer means onto said means for bearing latent images included in said second visible image forming means.

34 (Currently Amended): The image forming apparatus according to claim 33, wherein, in a case where optical image writing for ~~[[a]]~~ the second round of rotation of said intermediate transfer means onto said means for bearing latent images included in said first visible image forming means is already completed at a time  $T_h$  when anyone of said mark detection signals is detected after said time  $T_c$ , said means for implementing light scanning is further configured to correct said phase, during a period between said time  $T_h$  and a time after said time  $T_h$  that has elapsed by said base correction time  $t_1$ , based on a time lag  $dt_4$  between said time  $T_h$  and a time when said standard angle detection signal is detected firstly after said time  $T_h$ , and said time lag  $dt_2$ ; and initiate optical image writing for said second round of rotation of said intermediate transfer means onto said means for bearing latent images included in said second visible image forming means.

35 (Currently Amended): The image forming apparatus according to claim 32, further comprising:

first mark detection means as said first means for detecting a base mark; and  
second mark detection means for detecting a second base mark situated between said first and second visible image forming means,

wherein, in a case where optical image writing for [[a]] the first round of rotation of said intermediate transfer means onto said means for bearing latent images included in said first visible image forming means is already completed at a time  $T_i$  when a second mark detection signal is produced by said second mark detection means after said time  $T_a$  when the mark detection signal is produced by said first mark detection means as a previous mark detecting signal, said means for implementing light scanning is further configured to correct said phase, during a period between said time  $T_i$  and a time after said time  $T_i$  that has elapsed by said base correction time  $t_1$ , based on a time lag  $dt_5$  between said time  $T_i$  and a time when said standard angle detection signal is detected firstly after said time  $T_i$ , and said time lag  $dt_1$ ; and initiate optical image writing for said first round of rotation of said intermediate transfer means onto said means for bearing latent images included in said second visible image forming means.

36 (Currently Amended): The image forming apparatus according to claim 35, wherein, in a case where optical image writing for [[a]] the second round of rotation of said intermediate transfer means onto said means for bearing latent images included in said first visible image forming means is already completed at a time  $T_j$  when the second mark detection signal is detected by said second mark detection means after said time  $T_c$  when the mark detection signal is produced by said first mark detection means as a previous mark detecting signal, said means for implementing light scanning is further configured to correct said phase, during a period between said time  $T_j$  and a time after said time  $T_j$  elapsed by said base correction time  $t_1$ , based on a time lag  $dt_6$  between said time  $T_j$  and a time when said

standard angle detection signal is detected firstly after said time  $T_j$ , and said time lag  $dt_2$ ; and initiate optical image writing for said second round of rotation of said intermediate transfer means onto said means for bearing latent images included in said second visible image forming means.

37 (Currently Amended): The image forming apparatus according to claim 32, wherein, in a case where said image information is of double-color images, said double-color images being able to be formed by superposing first color images formed by said first visible image forming means and second color images formed by said second visible image forming means, said means for implementing light scanning is further configured to initiate optical image writing onto said means for bearing latent images included in said first visible image forming means based on a time when said standard angle detection signal is detected firstly after said time  $T_a$  without waiting for an arrival of said time  $T_e$ .

38 (Original): The image forming apparatus according to claim 37, further comprising:

a plurality of development means included in each of said first and second visible image forming means; and

a development effecting means for selectively enabling one of said first and second visible image forming means,

wherein, in a case where said double-color images can be formed of a first color being able to be developed by anyone of said plurality of development means included in said first visible image forming means and of a second color being able to be developed by anyone of said plurality of development means included in said second visible image forming means, said first and second visible image forming means are each configured to enable said first

color and said second color, respectively, by selectively enabling one of said plurality of development means by means of said development effecting means.